

CLEAN VERSION OF ABSTRACT

DUAL-STAGE COMPARATOR UNIT

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Abstract of the Disclosure

21. A comparator unit includes a first amplifier stage and a second amplifier stage. The first amplifier stage includes a differential amplifier having a pair of input nodes for receiving a differential signal and a pair of output nodes, a switch connected across the pair of output nodes, and a non-linear load connected across the pair of output nodes. The second amplifier stage is coupled to the pair of output nodes of the first amplifier stage. In one embodiment the second amplifier stage is a non-linear amplifier. In an alternative embodiment, the differential amplifier is a differential pair. In another alternative embodiment, the differential amplifier is a pair of differential pairs.
